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SUBJECT Espionage

BOB MCBRIDE: Yesterday's arrest of CIA clerk Sharon Scranage (?) on spying charges brings now to 12 the number of U.S. citizens accused of espionage. In fact, never before have so many Americans faced spying charges at the same time.

Well, today Jack Cloherty talked to intelligence experts on this apparently growing problem of intelligence security. Jack?

JACK CLOHERTY: Bob, there is clearly a lot of concern in the intelligence community about case after case of apparent American betrayals. Ten years ago many spy cases were dealt with quietly and the public didn't hear much about them. But today the security problem is all too visible.

One U.S. intelligence source says the case of CIA clerk Sharon Scranage represents just the tip of the iceberg concerning penetrations of the CIA. Scranage was charged with turning over secrets to her Ghanian boyfriend.

ROY GODSON: This case exemplifies the problem, the fact that there are literally hundreds of foreign intelligence services that are targeted, to one extent or another, on Americans, Americans here in the United States and Americans serving abroad. The biggest single service targeting us is the Soviet intelligence service.

CLOHERTY: The Soviets apparently have had some impressive intelligence coups in the last few years. Arthur Walker and three of his family members allegedly sold secrets to the KGB. And this FBI undercover film shows former FBI agent Richard Miller allegedly turning over secrets to a Soviet agent.

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Christopher Boyce and William Campiles (?) both were convicted of smuggling high technology secrets to Soviet agents.

The Soviets have 2500 officials in the United States with hundreds based at their new embassy compound here in Northwest Washington. It's estimated that up to 40 percent of those officials are intelligence agents.

GODSON: I think the massive Soviet intelligence presence in the United States, which increased dramatically in the 1970s, indicates that the Soviets have a lot to do here.

CLOHERTY: And while the Soviets have been increasing their efforts.

GODSON: Our own counter-intelligence capabilities were cut back, cut back on quite a large scale. And it will take us years to rebuild that capability.

CLOHERTY: Godson says that until the U.S. toughens its counter-intelligence measures, the Soviets and others will continue to steal American secrets.

GODSON: So I regret to say that I think we will, in fact, be catching more people, and there will, in fact, I hope, be more trials.

CLOHERTY: There is legislation pending in Congress that would take the first steps toward tighter security. The legislation would reduce the number of foreign nationals employed in U.S. embassies abroad and require that the U.S. be allowed at least as many officials in the Soviet Union as they have here.

Godson also believes that a closer watch should be kept of American workers abroad, workers like Sharon Scranage.

Bob?

MCBRIDE: Jack, you were just indicating that, oh, like ten years ago, that many of these cases were dealt with quietly...

CLOHERTY: Right.

MCBRIDE: ...I take it, rather than taking it to prosecution at all. But why...?

CLOHERTY: That's right.

MCBRIDE: ...why was that?

CLOHERTY: Well, in the days of detente, in the early

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and mid '70s, it was felt that it would damage relations too much to prosecute these cases. But Griffin Bell and the Carter administration fought that and he won. So they started prosecuting those cases now, and the public can see just how many cases there are.

MCBRIDE: All right. Jack Cloherty. Thank you.